

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol – McAllen Sector – Chief Jose E. Garza
1203 Main Street
McAllen, Texas 78501



NEWS RELEASE

December 18, 2002

1,011 Pounds of Marijuana Seized Near Rio Grande City

Border Patrol Agents Foil Narcotics Smuggling Attempt

McALLEN, Texas – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents assigned to the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station seized 1,001 pounds of marijuana valued at \$808,800.

Yesterday, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Agents patrolling the Rio Grande River near Rio Grande City encountered several subjects near the riverbank. Upon noticing the Border Patrol unit approaching the area, all of the subjects turned and fled to Mexico. Agents secured the immediate area and discovered 11 black painted sugar sacks containing the illicit marijuana. Several sacks were found near the area where the subjects were first observed and several more on the riverbank.

No arrests were made, but a white 1989 Ford F-150 pickup was also discovered abandoned nearby and is believed to have been the transport vehicle. The marijuana was turned over to the United States Customs Service for disposition and the pickup was turned over to the Starr County Sheriffs Office.

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